

## THE JACKDAW SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

**D**URING the last few decades increasing dissatisfaction with classical pedagogic methods has led to a search for new educational materials and novel pedagogic techniques. In the teaching of history this movement has revealed itself especially in the efflorescence of well-planned and well-produced supplementary materials, which have developed from older source books that resembled the chrestomathies used in the teaching of exotic languages. The newer source books, which are numerous, range from simple collections of documents and excerpts to collections of documents accompanied by commentaries, to collections of documents selected in order to present different aspects of a single issue.<sup>1</sup> Another sequence consists of rare source materials reproduced in facsimile.<sup>2</sup>

In 1963 a new and unusual series, the Jackdaw Publications, was inaugurated by Messrs. Jonathan Cape of Bedford Square, London. In this series<sup>3</sup> there are now 53 so-called History Jackdaws, which range from *King John and Magna Carta* to *Assassination at Sarajevo*. Science Jackdaws thus far issued deal with Newton and gravitation; the discovery of the galaxies; Pasteur and the germ theory; Darwin; Faraday; and Harvey and the circulation of the blood.

We may use the last-named as an example. The material on Harvey, compiled by Jonathan Miller and edited by Gerald Leach, is presented in a stout and brightly-colored envelope measuring approximately 13 1/2 by 9 inches. It contains 11 numbered items, such as: a portrait of Harvey; four facsimiles of manuscript pages from John Aubrey's *Brief Lives* (with transcription); the opening pages of the First Folio *Coriolanus*, containing the physiological parable of the belly and the members; the arterial system as depicted in the *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* of

<sup>1</sup>Kriegel, L., ed. *Essential Works of the Founding Fathers*. New York, Bantam Books, 1964.  
Baritz, L., ed. *Sources of the American Mind*, 2 vols. New York, John Wiley, 1966.  
Friede, F. and Pollack, N., eds. *American Issues in the Twentieth Century*. Chicago, Rand McNally, 1966.  
Hofstadter, R., ed. *Great Issues in American History*, 2 vols. New York, Vintage Books, 1958.  
Boorstin, D. J., ed. *An American Primer*. Chicago, Univ. Chicago Press, 1966.

<sup>2</sup>*The March of American Collection* (directed by H. H. Peckman, Louis B. Wright, and P. A. Knachel). Ann Arbor, Univ. Microfilms, 1966.

<sup>3</sup>In the United States the Jackdaw series is issued by Grossman Publishers of New York, N. Y.

Vesalius; part of Harvey's diploma from Padua, with translation; and pages from the writings of Harvey. These objects are supplemented by modern materials such as an x-ray film of the chest and part of an electrocardiogram. The final component consists of five illustrated broadsheets (7½ x 16 inches), which explain the history of our ideas of the circulation from antiquity to the days of the open-heart operation. The historical exposition is sound.

It is evident that on the Harveian theme the publishers have provided an impressive quantity of material and have set it forth in an impressive way. The device of detached presentation in loose pages allows the reader to make selection according to his capacity or his fancy. It is evident further that, while most of the material is within the scope of an intelligent high school student, nothing has been included which would draw disdain from a medical student or a physician. Indeed the materials are such as most physicians could hardly assemble without skilled help and large resources.

The Science Jackdaw on Pasteur is analogous to the envelope on Harvey but contains in addition an ingenious cut-out chart which makes vivid the gradual destruction of the hypothesis of spontaneous generation.

Here at last we have a series of nonbooks, issued by an eminent publisher and capable of conveying serious instruction in a superior manner. The unconventional use of broadsheets and packets is refreshing and, to the youngest students, will appear less didactic and hence less odious and onerous than the traditional bound book.

S. J.